

**ABSTRACT**

A method and system provides access to information about a resource associated with a network device. The method and system selects a layer for communicating with the requested resource associated with the network device in a network protocol stack having multiple layers, establishes an inner layer socket for communicating at the selected layer using an inner layer application programming interface (IL API) and a socket identifier associated with the requested resource, wherein the inner layer socket communicates using the selected layer and bypasses other layers in the network protocol stack, transmits the request for information about the resource through the inner layer socket and the socket identifier, receives the information about the resource in response to the transmission made through the inner layer socket, and passes the information about the resource through the inner layer socket to the application making the request.

50029091.doc